Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement 2019 Annual Report

Sea to Sky Marine Trail



Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement 2019 Annual Report

January 15, 2019

Name of Agreement Holder: Sea Kayak Association of BC

Sites or Trails under Management:

Sea to Sky Marine Trail -

- Ramillies Channel
- Bain Creek
- Thornbrough Channel
- Islet View
- Zorro Bay
- Tantalus Landing

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1. Management of Operations

a) Maintenance & Projects

The six Sea to Sky Marine Trail sites in Howe Sound are Recreation Sites established by the British Columbia Marine Trails Network Association (BCMTNA), Trans Canada Trail and RSTBC in 2015. In the spring of 2017 the Sea Kayak Association of British Columbia (SKABC), a Vancouver based sea kayak club, entered into a partnership agreement with RSTBC to look after maintenance of the six sites.

In 2019 the following maintenance and projects were performed:

1. **Zorro Bay Toilet** – As noted in the 2018 Annual Report, in the Spring of 2018, it was decided to proceed with the first toilet at one of the sites, Zorro Bay. After several delays, the toilet went ahead in March of 2019. It is a Toilet Tech composting toilet, installed by a contractor, with minor finishing, provisioning, cleaning materials and a lock on the rear service doors provided by SKABC. The toilet was inspected at the end of the season. It has been well received and there are no problems evident so far.



Zorro Bay toilet

2. **Tantalus Landing Bridge** – As noted in the 2018 Annual Report, in October 2018, two logs, which were found on site, were moved into position by volunteer labour using a hand-powered chain hoist. In the Spring of 2019, decking was added and the south approach was improved.

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The bridge is now complete and in use, providing a safe creek crossing and preventing visitors from trampling in the creek.



- 3. **Spring Site Inspections** Site inspections were carried out by powerboat and kayak. Minor work was done on the sites.
- 4. **Howe Sound Cleanup** A powerful windstorm in February of 2019 scattered debris around the shores of Howe Sound. On April 10 & 11 SKABC participated in a Howe Sound cleanup, with a crew of volunteers camping out at Zorro Bay. Four boatloads of debris and garbage were removed, mostly from Zorro Bay and Ramillies Channel. In addition to garbage removal, SKABC did a major brush burning below the tide line at Zorro Bay, eliminating a potentially hazardous build-up of brush from the original tent site clearing and from hazard tree felling.
- 5. **Zorro Bay Tent Platform** Now that we have a toilet at Zorro Bay, we anticipate more use, so we decided to go ahead in May with a prototype of a tent platform in an area that would not otherwise accept a tent, using some of our salvaged wood for framing. Over the May long weekend, an outfitter from Squamish held a SUP touring course at Zorro Bay. In exchange, in August they paddled over and applied a coat of stain to the decking. We are hoping to proceed with another tent platform higher up the slope in the same general area.



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6. **Bain Creek Toilet** – Following the success of the Zorro Bay toilet, it was decided to proceed with a second toilet at Bain Creek, which sees a lot of use by summer camp youth. We decided to proceed with a volunteer-built simpler toilet using a urine-diverting "moldering in bins" type of toilet used on the Appalachian Trail. We are hoping that this will be a prototype for toilets at other Marine Trail sites. Material was delivered to site by landing-craft-type water taxi October 9, 2019. Through the end of December, 2019 there have been 17 work parties on site and the toilet is substantially complete, with mainly painting and some trail work left to do.





7. **Thornbrough Channel Tent Platform Material Delivery** – Following the completion of our prototype tent platform at Zorro Bay, a second tent platform is planned, this time for Thornbrough Channel. The selected location is on the high rock bluffs. Material was delivered to site on October 9, 2019 (same trip as material delivery to Bain Creek). Construction of the platform is scheduled for Spring of 2020.







Tent platform proposed location

8. **Fall Site Inspections** – Fall site inspections were carried out by powerboat at Thornbrough Channel in October and at Bain Creek in December.

Inspections at the other four sites were carried out by kayak in December.

9. Video/Presentations – A video on the work that SKABC has done on the Howe Sound sites since entering into our partnership agreement with RSTBC was presented at the BC Marine Trails Fall Forum November 30, 2019. It is anticipated that the video will be posted online on the SKABC and BC Marine Trails websites.

b) Volunteers

19 volunteers from SKABC and 4 non-member volunteers visited the sites for the maintenance and projects noted above. A total of 64 volunteer-days of work were performed.

c) Incidents and Actions

- 1) All six site are boat access only and are not patrolled on a regular basis.
- 2) One incident was reported where a group of campers from Camp Latona was observed leaving human excrement and soiled paper towels scattered around the site at Thornbrough Channel. The incident was reported to the Camp, who subsequently apologized, had the site cleaned up, and disciplined/educated the campers and leaders involved.
- 3) No other incidents or actions were reported.

d) Management Concerns

Following are the most significant current management concerns:

- A urine-diverting composting toilet was installed at Zorro Bay in March and a second toilet is almost complete at Bain Creek. At the remaining four sites, users are expected to use Leave No Trace practices:
 - i. Go below tide line, cover with rocks or sand, or
 - ii. Dig a small hole well away from streams, cover with soil.
 - iii. Pack out toilet paper.

Toilets should be provided at all sites, continuing in order of the most heavily used sites.

2) Two sites, Thornbrough Channel and Tantalus Landing have creek crossings. A two-log bridge over the creek at Tantalus Landing was been completed in 2019. Only planning work has been done yet on the bridge at Thornbrough Channel.

e) Enforcement Support

No enforcement support is currently required.

2. Summary of Visitors and Revenue

a) Visitors

Visitor logbooks were installed at all six sites in 2018. The following visits were recorded in 2019 based on onsite and online logbook entries:

- **a.** Ramillies Channel 32 day visitors. 29 overnight visitors, including 3 groups from Camp Fircom.
- **b.** Bain Creek 14 day visitors. 144 overnight visitors, including 10 groups from Camp Potlatch, 2 groups from Camp Fircom, and one group from Camp Latona. (In addition there were 49 day visitors working on the toilet.)
- **c. Thornbrough** 34 day visitors. 140 overnight visitors, including 5 groups from Camp Potlatch, one group from Camp Latona, and one group from an unidentified camp.
- **d. Islet View** 31 day visitors. 120 overnight visitors, including 2 groups from Camp Potlatch and 2 groups from unidentified camps.
- e. Zorro Bay 63 day visitors. 64 overnight visitors.
- **f.** Tantalus Landing 126 day visitors. 58 overnight visitors.

Total for all sites: 349 day visitors, 555 overnight visitors. This is an increase from 219 day visitors and 462 overnight visitors in 2018. It is known from anecdotal evidence that some day and overnight visits were not entered in the logbooks, so actual site usage is higher.

Four sites, Ramillies Channel, Bain Creek, Thornbrough Channel, Islet View and saw visits by large parties from Camp Fircom, Camp Potlatch and Camp Latona.

While the majority of visits were by self-propelled watercraft (kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard), there was use at all sites by powerboat. Two sites, Tantalus Landing and Zorro Bay, saw visitors arrive by sailboat. At Ramillies Channel, one pair of visitors arrived by hiking.

b) Revenue

All six sites are boat access only and no fees are charged for use.

3. Summary of Expenses

In 2018, expenses were incurred for the following maintenance and projects:

- a) Bridge completion at Tantalus Landing.
 - 1) Powerboat and materials.
- b) Spring Site Inspections / April Clean-Up
 - 1) Powerboat.

- c) Zorro Bay tent platform
 - 1) Powerboat and materials.
- d) Bain Creek Toilet
 - 1) Water taxi for material delivery.
 - 2) Powerboat and materials.
- e) Thornbrough Channel tent platform
 - 1) Water taxi for material delivery.
 - 2) Materials.

SKABC will invoice separately for the above expenses.

4. Year End Condition of Infrastructure

- a) Generally, all sites are in good shape and show evidence of moderate use.
- b) Bathroom etiquette signs are present at all sites.
- c) Food cache boxes, new in 2017, are in generally good shape, but are showing rust at some spots on all of them. Grinding and paint touch-up will be required in 2020.
- d) Concrete block steps up from beach at Ramillies Channel have shifted and require repair.
- e) Log steps up from beach at Tantalus Landing are coming apart and require repair.
- f) The canoe run at Tantalus Landing was never finished at the high tide line. Rock removal/shifting required. Maintenance work on the canoe runs at Bain Creek and Islet View may be required as well.
- g) One danger tree was left in place at Ramillies Channel in 2018 due to wildlife values. This tree should be removed before or after nesting season. One danger tree at Tantalus Landing was missed and should be removed.

5. Proposed Projects and Planning for the Coming Year

- a) See Items c) through g) in Section 4 above.
- b) It is anticipated that the urine-diverting moldering toilet at Bain Creek will be completed in early 2020. Our main priority will be providing toilets at the four remaining sites as soon as possible. Once completed, we would therefore like to have RSTBC evaluate the prototype for possible duplication at the other sites. Based on our experience with having the prototype built by volunteers, we recommend having the remaining four toilets contracted out, due to the difficulty in getting this type of project completed in a reasonable time due to logistics and the limited skills of volunteers. Therefore, confirmation will be needed early that the design chosen will meet RSTBC's requirements and be suited to the locations we have identified.

- c) The tent platform at Thornbrough Channel will proceed in Spring 2020. Additional tent platforms at this and other sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit.
- d) Trailwork at various sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit.

6. Appendix 1 – Site Visitor Logbooks

Site Visitor Logbook – Ramillies Channel

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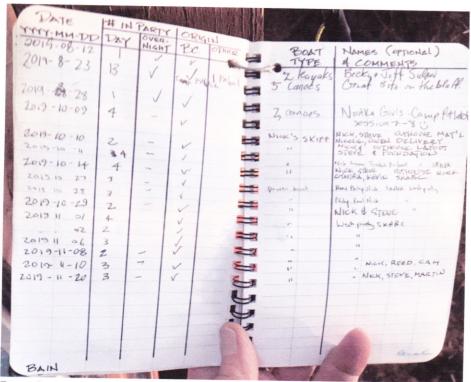
Site Visitor Logbook – Bain Creek

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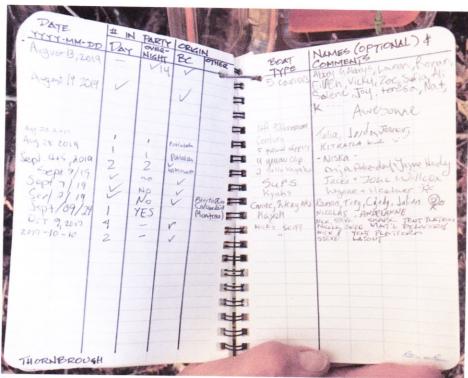


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Site Visitor Logbook - Thornbrough Channel

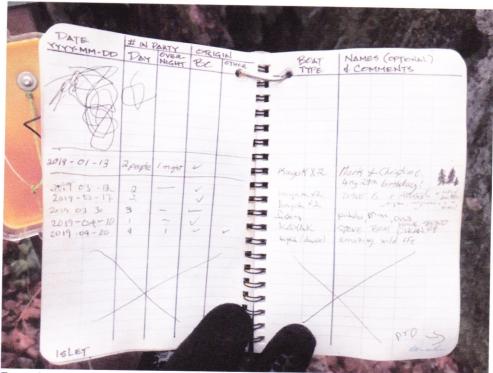


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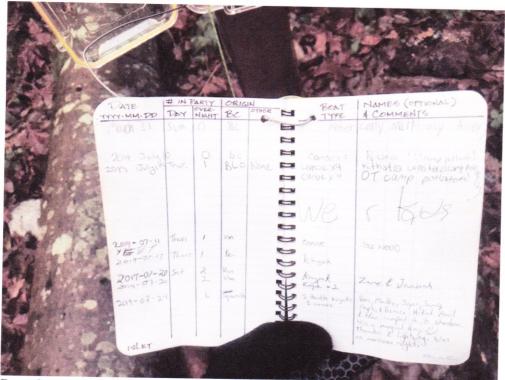
Site Visitor Logbook - Islet View



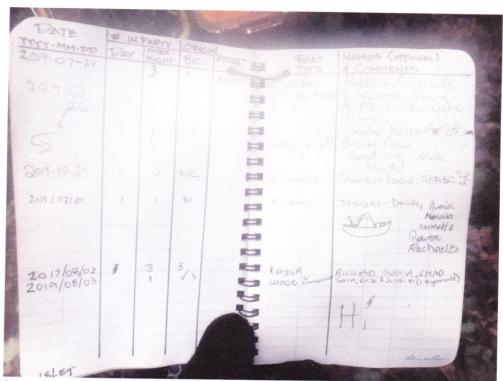
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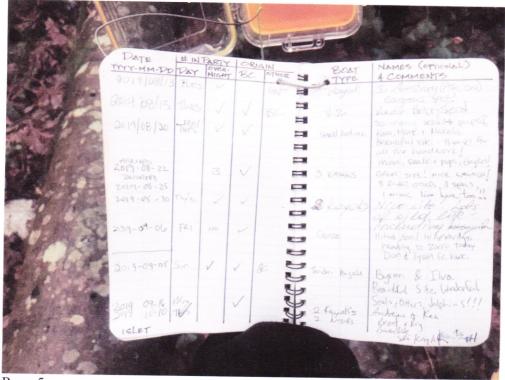
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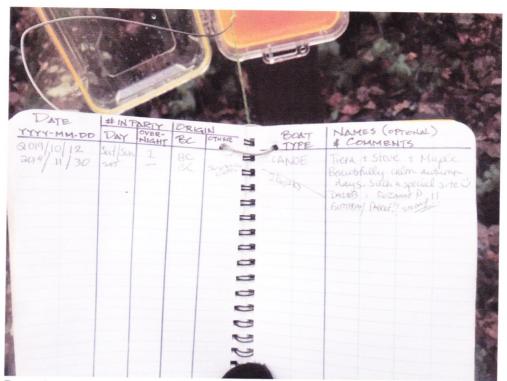
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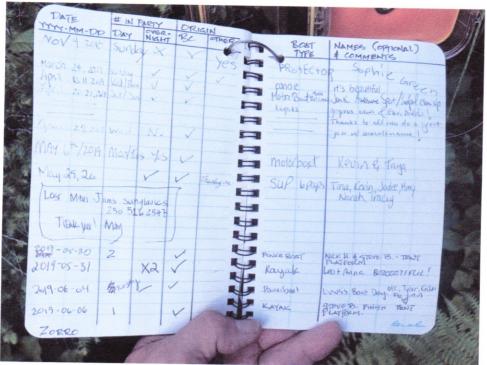


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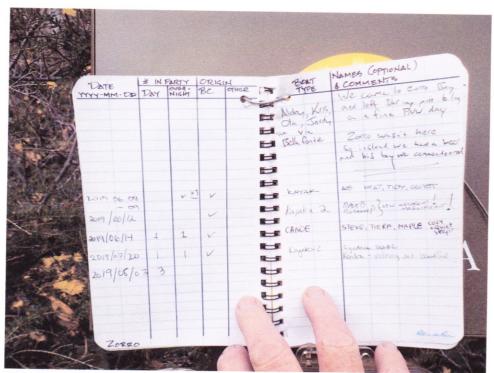


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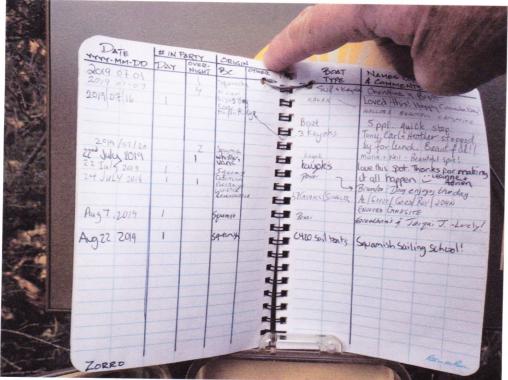
Site Visitor Logbook - Zorro Bay



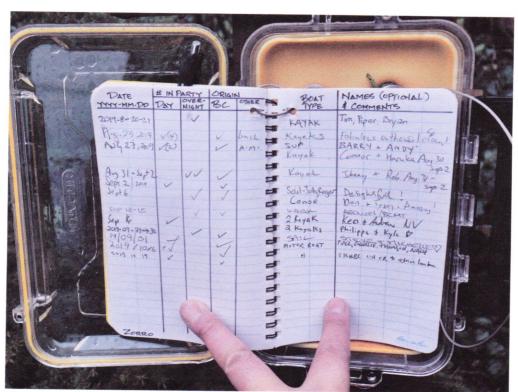
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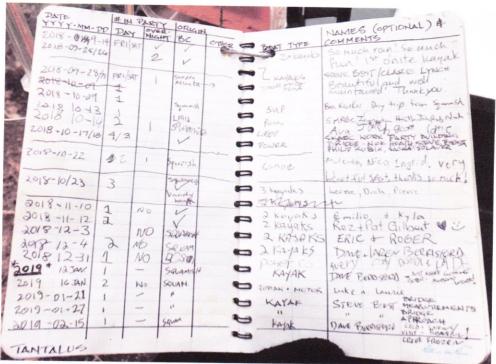


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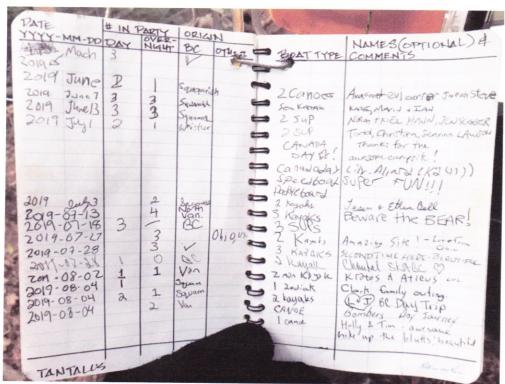
Site Visitor Logbook - Tantalus Landing



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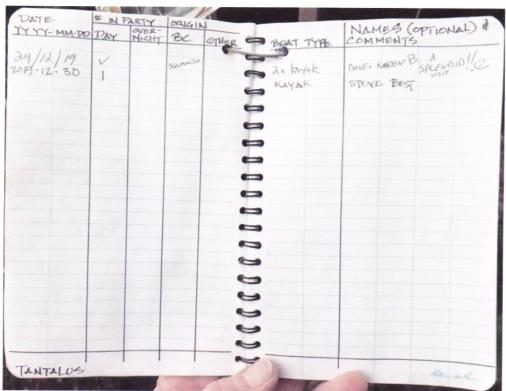
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